Mr. U. L. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—Am I to take it then that all the revenue derived by the department in the shape of re-connection fees are being utilized for paying the establishment meant for this work and that there is no surplus under this head?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—The question of reducing the re-connection charges will be considered. if possible.

Grant of Responsible Government to Mysore.

Q.—20. **Mr. B. SRINIVASA RAO,** Bowringpet Taluk.—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

on how many occasions the question regarding the grant of Responsible Government to the people of Mysore State was discussed, both in the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council, since the year 1923?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, GENERAL DEPARTMENT (Mr. C. Subrahmanya Aiyar).**—

This was not discussed on any occasion.

Railway Cess Collections in the Tumkur District.

Q.—22. **Messrs. BALE GOWDA** and **REVANNA GOWDA,** Kunigal Taluk.—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the total sum of railway cess collected in the Tumkur District and under deposit till now;

(*b*) the amount of interest realized thereon each year;

(*c*) whether they are aware of the fact that a portion of this interest is being utilized for the formation of only new road works;

(*d*) whether it has been brought to their notice that the raiyats are hard hit in these days of economic depression by the collection of this tax?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (Mr. P. H. Krishna Rao).**—

(*a*) Rs. 11,28,856 on 1st July 1937.

(*b*) Rs. 53,080.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

Mr. BALE GOWDA.—Are the Government aware that some important roads have been constructed with the help of the railway cess collections in the Tumkur District? If so, will there be any objection to giving sufficient grants for maintaining those roads from the interest amount on the railway cess collections?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—That question is already engaging the attention of Government.

Mr. G. SHANKARA SETTY.—In the case of necessary works, why not the Government empower the district boards themselves to utilize some of the cess income on their own initiative?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—That question is under consideration.

Mr. G. SHANKARA SETTY.—Many of the district boards will be unable to maintain the roads if they are not permitted to utilize the interest on railway cess income for that purpose. Are not the Government aware of it?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—Yes, and that is why a special committee has been appointed to suggest ways and means for augmenting the resources of the local bodies. Their recommendations are awaited by Government.

Mr. G. SHANKARA SETTY.—Why not the Government take over the management of all important roads in the State and see that they are maintained properly?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—That question is also under the consideration of the special committee.

Mr. KRISHNA RAO GANESHA RAO GURUJAR.—In all the districts, Government are still levying the railway cess. Does it mean that the Government are still thinking of further railway developments in all those places?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—It is not true either that the cess is being levied in all the districts or that the question of railway expansion in each district is under consideration.

Mr. KRISHNA RAO GANESHA RAO GURUJAR.—Speaking of the Kadur District, may I know if the Government are contemplating any railway expansion?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—Yes, recently a survey also has been sanctioned.

Mr. Mummadi H. C. VEERABHADRAPPA.—Is the question of giving railway connection to any part of the Tumkur District under consideration ?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—Not at present.

Mr. Mummadi H. C. VEERABHADRAPPA.—In that case, why should the levy of the cess continue any longer ?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—The collections may be utilized for road works, etc., under the District Board Act.

Mr. Mummadi H. C. VEERABHADRAPPA.—What is the harm in abolishing the railway cess altogether ?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—That is a different matter.

Mr. Mummadi H. C. VEERABHADRAPPA.—At least for the time being, in view of the economic position of the general tax-payer, why should not the Government think of suspending the levy ?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—That is a question for consideration. But the Act permits of this amount being utilized for the improvement of roads and other communications.

Mr. Mummadi H. C. VEERABHADRAPPA.—Is it not a fact that the Tumkur District Board has submitted resolutions asking for the abolition of this cess ?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—Not to my knowledge.

Mr. G. RAJAGOPALACHAR.—When did the Government decide that no railway programmes need be undertaken in the Tumkur District ?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—All I said was that there was no railway expansion in view in the Tumkur District at present.

Mr. G. RAJAGOPALACHAR.—For how many years past is the railway cess being collected there ?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—For quite a number of years.

Mr. G. RAJAGOPALACHAR.—In view of the fact that no railway expansion is in view, what is the objection to discontinuing the levy of the cess ?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—I do not think Government can give up the programme of improving the communications in such a summary way.

Mr. G. RAJAGOPALACHAR.—In that case, will the Government permit the district board to utilize the cess income for any other important purpose ?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—Yes, it is being done already for road works. Quite recently, a sum of Rs. 25,000 or so has been sanctioned for a certain work in that district.

Mr. G. RAJAGOPALACHAR.—What is the total income from railway cess and the total expenditure incurred as against that ?

The SECOND MEMBER (Rajamantrapravina N. Madhava Rau).—If the district boards themselves will consider the question of utilization of the cess income and submit resolutions to Government in consonance with the provisions of the Act, Government will be prepared to consider their suggestions favourably.

Reconstruction of the Gundarlahalli Tank in Pavagada Taluk.

Q.—25. Mr. G. SHANKARA SETTY, Pavagada Taluk.—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of petitions received from the raiyats of Gundarlahalli and the neighbouring villages in Pavagada Taluk praying for the reconstruction of the old tank at Gundarlahalli ;

(*b*) whether it has come to their notice that the tank, if restored, will be useful to the raiyats of the surrounding 4 to 5 villages ;

(*c*) whether it has come to their notice that the raiyats are agreeable to pay contributions ;

(*d*) the further steps that have been taken in the matter ?

A.—The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Diwan Bahadur N. N. Ayyangar).—

(*a*) One petition to Government during March 1938 from Mr. Dasi Rangappa and others is forthcoming.